

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING March 6, 2002

Members Present: William Porter, Robert Nelson, Les Cartier, David Duquette, Scott Carrigan, Paul Fortier, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, Joseph Butts, Corey Landry, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Stephen Judge, John Stephen, Rick Plummer, Roger Hatfield, Donald Bliss.

Others Present: Division of Fire Standards & Training Staff--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair Paul Fortier at 9:32 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

A moment of silence was held for Lieutenant Roland Bisson of the Somersworth Fire Department who passed away last week.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. February 6, 2002. *Motion* made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to accept the Minutes of the February 6, 2002 Commission meeting as printed and distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Fortier allowed Commissioner Duquette to speak in his place. Commissioner Duquette reported that Lieutenant Roland Bisson was a

student in one of the first Recruit Schools in 1980 at the University of New Hampshire. He was promoted to Lieutenant five years later. He was also a member of the National Guard and the Army Reserve. He is survived by his wife and four children aged 7, 5 (twins), and 3. He would have retired September 2002 at age 45 with 22 years of service. Because he died before his retirement, his wife is entitled to only 25 percent of his retirement benefit, which will be approximately \$12,000 a year; and she will have to pay for health insurance from that. He was overweight and had a family history of problems as his father died at age 44.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services Liaison. Commissioner Duquette reported that Director Mason has appointed Sue Prentiss as the new EMS Bureau Chief. He noted that the employees are excited about a new start.

Commissioner Duquette said the doctors on the EMS Trauma Coordinating Board were taken by surprise as the changes were due to a personnel issue which could not be discussed. They thought EMS would not be anyone's priority in the fire service, however it is a top priority. Director Mason explained that we have already moved \$270,000 into the budget for them. We are now working on items from a strategic plan they finished over a year ago. We are putting on four new personnel to work on the areas of Advanced Life Support, Trauma, Field Services, and Research.

Commissioner Duquette stated that meetings have been held all over the State about the EMS Rules. Director Mason said the Rules probably will be on the Consent Calendar only.

Commissioner Duquette said the Board meets again on March 21.

Chair Fortier asked if there was any new information about LSR 2365 regarding drawing blood. Commissioner Duquette answered that he hasn't heard. Director Mason said he will check on the status.

Item 2. Curriculum Review. Commissioner Duquette reported that Director Mason did a written report, which is in each Commission member's packet, that reads as follows:

- (a) Driver/Operator: The first pilot program is ongoing this week at the fire academy. The Train-the-Trainer was held last month. The aerial ladder portion will be initiated after the pumps have been piloted both times and approved.

- (b) Hazardous Materials Operations: We are currently finishing the presentation program as requested at the Train-the-Trainer and will be conducting the pilots in the near future, one in Newport and one at the fire academy.
- (c) Hazardous Materials Technician: Currently offering the fourth (and hopefully the last) pilot program in Nashua next week. Requests are in for the Seacoast and Upper Valley after the last pilot. We have the technician trailer that has all the items needed for the program, except the communications equipment, which will be ordered shortly.
- (d) Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting: One of the final meetings of the Visiting Committee was held yesterday and they anticipate the curriculum package in the Curriculum Committee's hands in time to make a presentation at the April 3, 2002 Commission meeting.
- (e) NFPA 1030 Series: NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiners will be in the Curriculum Committee's hands in time to make a presentation at the April 3, 2002 Commission meeting. They actually have reserved space for the first pilot program at the fire academy in June...positive thinking!

NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator and NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator are still in the Visiting Committee phase.
- (f) Rescue Series--Structural Collapse: Presently acquiring public domain programs, usually from either the military or FEMA.
- (g) Rescue Series--Confined Space: We are scheduling the two pilot programs at the present time and will be acquiring the appropriate props in the very near future.
- (h) Other: We will need to initiate Visiting Committees for the following in accordance with the Commission vote on February 3, 1999:
 - ✓ NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications (2002 edition)
 - ✓ NFPA 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications (2002 edition)
 - ✓ NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (2002 edition)

- ✓ NFPA 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications (2002 edition)

Chair Fortier asked if we have the props for Confined Space Rescue yet. Director Mason replied that the money is now here with us for the props.

Regarding NFPA 1002, Commissioner Duquette said that we need to work on Driver/Operator-Aerial soon. Also the CD-Rom needs to be reviewed by those who have taken the NAPD driver training.

Commissioner Cartier noted that only small containers of chemicals will be kept on the Hazardous Materials Technician trailer. This is a safety issue. This way we won't be transporting more than is necessary for a program.

Chief Rosolen noted that, of the four NFPA Standards listed that will need Visiting Committees appointed, Fire Service Instructor is the only one that is out right now. Also, IFSTA has said they are not looking at a Fifth Edition of *Firefighter Essentials* yet.

Item 3. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Bliss was absent.

Director Mason noted that Director Bliss is still doing some of the Fire Marshal's duties. He will be up for President/Chair of the National Association of State Fire Marshals for their next year.

Item 4. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Nelson reported on the following items:

- (a) Have some Warden/Deputy Warden and Selectmen meetings scheduled in April. Will send out letters. Looking for input for appointment process, job descriptions, expectations and looking for input as to the possibility of minimum training requirements.
- (b) GPS training going on around the State.
- (c) Holding some training at the Fire Academy in June, which is open to New Hampshire firefighters.
- (d) Dealing with fire severity and drought issues. No relieve in sight. We are about 12" to 14" below normal, and lakes are down. Be prepared.
- (e) Update: The grant for the Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts is now back on track, thanks to Director Mason and others who helped. Some of that grant will be used for the Explorer Academy here in June.
- (f) Did get another federal excess property truck. Will be housed at the Woodstock Fire Department. Holds 125-150 gallons of water and Class A foam. This gives us more capability.

Commissioner Cartier asked where the federal equipment is normally staged if we don't use it. Commissioner Nelson replied that people are brought in from their own full-time fire departments when needed. Chair Fortier asked about the Quebec water bombers. Commissioner Nelson answered that we have to go to the national level before we can go international.

- (g) Chair Fortier asked if there are any changes in the trash-burning rules. Commissioner Nelson said he doesn't know where they are at the moment. Rudy Cartier is working on that with the Department of Environmental Services attorney. We haven't been asked for input. Director Mason reported that, before anything is made public, they are going to get the group together again that met at the Forestry Warehouse previously on this issue.

Commissioner Nelson said they are trying to answer questions as best they can that come in to their office. Governor's Councilors are calling for information.

Commissioner Nelson stated that this is coming about because of more federal regulations about putting pollutants into the atmosphere. They are trying to get away from that. In the not too distant future, you are looking at no outside burning.

Commissioner Cartier said that bona fide training is what they are looking at. He went to two of those trainings. They removed the pollutants first, then they just let the building go. They are trying to have us continue on, but have everything done right.

Item 5. Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). Commissioner Cartier reported that Instructor Chris Silver has the paperwork done. They will have the initial program with the Visiting Committee the end of this month. They are planning on doing the train-the-trainer in April.

Item 6. NFPA Standards 1031-1033-1035. Chair Fortier noted that this item was covered under the Curriculum Committee report.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #59 covered the following subjects: 1) Bureau Chief/EMS, 2) HB 1461, 3) CPAT, 4) Documents Changed, 5) Certified Public Supervisor, 6) US District Court Jury Duty, 7) Fire Act Workshops, and 8) Mentoring Coordinator.

Further discussion was held on:

- 2) HB 1461 (moving OEM to FMO): Passed the full Executive Department & Administration Committee of the House yesterday with an amendment about issues for the Governor. Director Mason's position, a New Hampshire Fire Chief, and one member of the NH Fire Standards & Training Commission (appointed by the Chair) have been added to the Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness and Security. Commissioner Cartier noted that the amendment adds those people as the fire side had been omitted originally. He stated that the first people anyone calls is the fire department, so the fire service is a major factor. Director Mason reported that the House Bill goes to the House floor tomorrow.
- 3) Documents Changed: Updated Rules are in Commission members' notebooks.
- 6) US District Court Jury Duty: Director Mason told the story of being picked on his fourth and last week of jury duty.
- 8) Mentoring Coordinator: Commissioner Carrigan asked if Scott Hunter has started employment yet. Director Mason answered that he has. Commissioner Carrigan mentioned that Nashua has been looking at doing this.

Other items discussed were:

- 9) Director Mason announced that Joseph Butts has been reappointed as a Commission member for three years.
- 10) Recruit School is starting the end of this month. We have scheduled one Firefighter I program, two Firefighter II programs, and two C2F2 programs. Graduation will be Friday, June 14 instead of Friday, June 7. We received over 100 applications. We will probably have to run another C2F2 in the Summer and one in the Fall due to the demand. Commissioner Butts noted that Manchester is looking at running a C2F2 program.
- 11) We have a new forklift, which is painted white over red to match the trucks.
- 12) We also have a crane for the flatbed truck.
- 13) We have resources to acquire much of the required equipment for field training.
- 14) Chief McPherson attended his first class in the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy.
- 15) Job Aid for Emergency Response book is available this morning for anyone who would like a copy. We also have Delmar publications and should have that available the same way shortly.
- 16) Because of the number of programs we are currently running, we are concerned that some Staff Instructors will need to have some time off because they will be working so much.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. C2F2 Residency Requirement. Commissioner Duquette reported that another copy of the C2F2 residency requirement had to be sent to the Attorney General's Office. Hopefully we will have an answer at next month's meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Change in Commission Meeting Day. Commissioner Duquette stated there has been some discussion on changing the meeting day of the month since some members cannot be here the first Wednesday of the month. He asked what would be the best day of the month.

Director Mason answered that for John Stephen only Mondays and Fridays would be good, and Stephen Judge has to attend Governor & Council meetings on the first Wednesday of the month a number of times a year. Commissioner Butts said that the organization he represents meets the first Wednesday of the month also.

Commissioner Russell stated that it depends on what day is chosen, as other days could cause conflicts for some people.

Director Mason will send out a request to all Commission members so they may list their choices.

Item 2. Inspection Station. Commissioner Duquette reported that the Fire Academy is now an official Inspection Station, #222.

Item 3. William Porter. Chair Fortier reported that Commissioner Porter will remain for some time as the Commissioner of Education designee to the Commission. Commissioner Porter noted that it will be an indeterminate time, but not too long.

Chair Fortier thanked Commissioner Porter for all his years of service to the Commission.

Item 4. Corey Landry. Commissioner Carrigan asked if this is Corey Landry's first official meeting as a Commission member. Chair Fortier replied that it is.

Item 5. US Department of Justice Program. Commissioner Cartier asked how someone can bring a US Department of Justice program into the Fire Academy. He is interested in the Terrorism Awareness class on letter and package bombs. He thinks it will compliment our classes we

are doing now on Terrorism. Director Mason answered that he would have to advertise it and schedule a room for it.

VIII. RETREAT ITEM DISCUSSION

Chair Fortier noted that no Retreat item was selected for discussion this month. Director Mason stated that the only two items left are (a) Quality Control of Instructors and (b) the Non-Lapse Account Plan.

Commissioner Duquette asked what we can do to integrate the EMS Instructors into our system. Director Mason stated that, legislatively, that is being taken care of. Chief Rosolen said that Lenny Deane of EMS has looked at our system to see what can be done for a train-the-trainer. Director Mason added that we have been looking at that since 1999.

Director Mason noted that EMT Instructors can now charge \$800 for a program. We are going to say you can now take the course here at the Fire Academy for \$200. Instructors who didn't want to be under us will now lose money.

Commissioner Cartier said that quality control has already been started with the meeting held here last week. Some Instructors were put on notice at that time. From an EMS standpoint, he asked if Fire Instructors will have to go through EMS Instructor training. Director Mason said that objectives of the National Registry would have to be covered. He noted that we certify, while they license and certify.

Commissioner Butts stated that Instructor quality control is a pet peeve of his so he would like to report on it if Chair Fortier would like him to. Chair Fortier appointed Commissioners Butts and Cartier and Director Mason to work on Instructor quality control together for a report in April.

Commissioner Russell stated that Director Mason probably already has a plan in place for the Non-Lapse Account. Director Mason explained that the Non-Lapse Account is used for purchasing equipment, the book store, and for part-time employees working in the field. Up until July, 2001 we had three full-time employees' benefits and salaries paid out of that account. The only salaries paid out of it now are people teaching courses, and the fees for courses—the 25 percent we charge—goes into that account. The annual budget for this revenue account is based upon anticipated revenue; if we spend more than we receive, there is a problem.

Director Mason explained that the National Fire Academy account that we have is the only revolving account. It's a money in/money out account, and was set up for the Two State Weekend.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Attendance. Chair Fortier asked all members to call the staff to let them know if they are unable to attend a Commission meeting. The count is needed for the lunches.

Item 2. Memberships. Director Mason advised everyone that Commissioner Carrigan is on hold-over status, and his organization is working on that now.

Item 3. ARFF Site. Commissioner Cartier asked when the ARFF site would be in use, and if the Commission members could have a tour in April. Director Mason reported that May 14 will be the dedication for the site.

Item 4. Juvenile Firesetter Program. Commissioner Nelson said he received an announcement about a Juvenile Firesetter Program. He asked Commissioner Landry if the Fire Prevention Society had sent the announcements out. Commissioner Landry replied that the program is being sponsored by the Hudson Fire Department.

Item 5. Renominations. Commissioner Nelson reported that the Governor is renominating Commissioner George Bald and Director Philip Bryce for their positions in the Department of Resources & Economic Development.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, and passed to adjourn at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director